(a) what effective steps are being taken by Government to intensify Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in rural areas of various States of the country;

(b) whether Government is getting any financial assistance therefor from international financial institutions;

(c) if so, the details thereof and from which institutions institution financial assistance has been received during the last three years and in which States that assistance has been used;

(d) the status of various States engaged in effective implementation of the scheme;

(e) whether Central Government monitors the functioning of States and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (f) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme is being implemented in all districts of the country to achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education in a mission mode. Various incentives including cooked mid day meal are being provided to ensure unversal enrolment of children in rural areas, in the 6—14 years age group. Consequently 98% of rural India has a primary school within one kilometer and remaining rural habitations have alternate schooling arrangements including Education Gurantee Scheme (EGS).

World Bank (WB), Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom and European Commission (EC) have been providing partial financial assistance for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) on reimbursement basis. Total reimbursements claimed by Government of India from these agencies in the last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07 have been Rs. 1047.67 crore, Rs. 2341.98 crore & Rs. 1091.91 crore, respectively. Government of India has so far received an amount of Rs. 189.88 crores in 2007-08 as reimbursement from external funding agencies on account of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Central funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are released to all State/UTs on the basis of Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) submitted by State/UTs to the Government of India every year. A part of this expenditure of Government of India is reimbursed by external funding agencies.

A rigorous system of monitoring of the SSA for tracking the performance of States, is in place which includes, *inter-alia*, monthly and quarterly progress reports and review meetings, furnishing of annual elementary school statistics, field monitoring by 40 independent monitoring institutions and six monthly independent Review Missions. In addition, annual statutory audit of the State/UT SSA programmes are in place and concurrent financial reviews are also carried out. Wherever deficiencies in the implementation of the programme are noticed, such deficiencies are brought to the notice of the State Governments for corrective action.

Institutes with deemed university status

968. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of institutes which have been granted the status of deemed university in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to streamline the procedure for granting deemed university status to certain institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The names of institutions of higher education, State-wise, that have been declared as deemed-to-be-universities, is enclosed as Statement. [Refer to the Statement appendid to the answer to USQ 955 Part (C).]

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission, which is responsible for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India, has constituted an Expert Committee to prepare draft regulations on deemed-to-be-universities. The Expert Committee has prepared draft UGC (Institutions Deemed-to-be-Universities) Regulations, 2008 which are under consideration of the Commission in consultation with the stakeholders.

Law regarding right to education

969. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to enact a national law in the country, regarding the right to education , which is constitutionally guaranteed; and

(b) if not, the details as to how Government is going to address the issue of implementing the right to education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) In pursuance of Article 21A of the Constitution, which makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6—14 years by providing that "*the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine*", process has been initiated for enactment of suitable central legislation on Right to Education.

Performance of Mid-day Meal Scheme

970. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is satisfied with the implementation of Mid-day Meal Scheme;

(b) whether the Scheme has reduced the school dropouts;

(c) if so, whether Government intends to extend the Scheme to the entire country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As per information available hot, cooked Mid day Meal is being provided to all children studying in primary classes (I-V) in Government